

Minutes of Solid Waste Working Group Meeting
4 p.m. Thursday, May 6

Meeting was called to order by chair Melissa Aronson at 4:04 p.m.

Members present: Melissa Aronson, Tom Morphet, Shannon Donahue. **Guests:** Sylvia Heinz, Haines Long-Term Recovery Committee; Helen Alten, interim deputy clerk, Haines Borough; and Carol Tuynman, Haines Borough Assembly.

Minutes: Approval of minutes postponed for lack of quorum.

Chair Aronson said the meeting scope might be limited for lack of quorum, and that presentation by Sylvia Heinz would be added to the agenda

PRESENTATION by Sylvia Heinz

Heinz reported that the borough's long-term recovery efforts from the Dec. 3 landslides doesn't yet have a project for debris removal, specifically debris from damaged and destroyed homes. Her group sees this as a need and is spreading the word to related borough groups. 60 households have applied for help processing construction debris, with average costs for each between \$15,000 to \$30,000. In other Alaska towns, municipalities have played a large part in covering cost of debris removal following wild fires and earthquakes. Heinz said a lack of a municipal waste plan complicates the situation. "We don't fit into the template very well." Her group has reviewed 5 debris removal claims ranging from \$1,500 to \$50,000, which she estimated may be 10 percent of total debris processing needs. Recent snowmelt will allow for a more accurate assessment of volume and costs, she said. Heinz reported that Haines didn't have a sufficient number of people affected to qualify for disaster funding to remove debris. She said it would be a topic of an upcoming meeting between the borough and the Chilkoot Indian Association.

Helen Alten suggested possible recycling of salvageable lumber, considering the spiraling cost of building supplies.

Shannon Donahue suggested approaching Alaska Marine Lines for a discount for barging debris south.

Tom Morphet suggested seeking a discount also from Community Waste Solutions and to seek funding or help from many sources as the price tag for the work seems very high.

REPORT from Tom Morphet on glass crushing

Tom reported that Juneau is doing what Haines is doing, crushing glass with a bulldozer and landfilling it. CWS has said it's not really interested in the glass business, as it's not a money-maker for them. Considering the cost of shipping glass and its low recycle value, it's best to look for local solutions. One might be for the Haines Borough to seek grants to buy a glass crusher (\$30,000+), site it at HFR, and allow the public to use the product for road fill, art projects, etc. Other communities in the Lower 48 are using crushers this way.

REPORT from Melissa Aronson on metal recycling

Melissa said HFR's household metal recycling will be held (tentatively) on Aug. 13-14 and electronics recycling will be held June 10-12

COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Group heard that the Haines Chamber of Commerce didn't organize a community cleanup this year, but school staff organized one involving students.

BUDGET REQUEST TO ASSEMBLY

Aronson said a request needed to be compiled quickly to meet the borough budget deadline. Morphet said he'd meet with Aronson in the coming days to put together a request, including \$1,000 for computer work to make the ROW document very computer friendly; \$1,000 for creation and boxholder mailing of a one-page, what-do-do-with-waste flyer and \$2,500 for a media campaign on proper waste disposal in the CVN and KHNS. That request would have to be approved prior to next regular meeting of SWWG.

Next meeting of SWGG set for Friday May 14 from 10-11 for a single agenda item on the budget request to the Borough. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 1, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Both meetings are via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned 5:25 p.m.